

**MINUTES**  
Town of North  
May 8, 2006  
North Town Hall

Mayor Jeffcoat called the regular meeting of Council to order at 7:00 p.m. and declared a quorum. Present were Council members Drew, Binyard, Lane and Gleaton were in attendance. Also in attendance were Mark Fallaw, Chief of Police, and Beth Kincaid, Town Clerk.

Mayor Jeffcoat welcomed visitors.

The Minutes from the April 10, 2006 meeting were approved as presented.

Mr. Jeffcoat asked for approval to amend the agenda to add Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter regarding a magistrate's contract. Mrs. Lane made the motion, seconded by Ms. Binyard, and approved unanimously by Council.

Highway 321 Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat has spoken with Jamie Steele regarding the project. Mr. Steele reported progress is slow at this point. Councilman Drew asked for clarification on the completion date and was advised it is July 31, 2006. Mr. Jeffcoat asked anyone with concerns regarding the project to contact Mr. Steele.

Water/Sewer Report:

Mr. Jeffcoat presented the water sewer report for April 2006, (copy attached).

Police Report:

Chief Fallaw reviewed the North Police report (copy attached); stating 73% of the calls generated were by the police department. He reviewed Group A, B and C offenses, noting an increase in traffic accidents and a special call to assist with an animal complaint. Of special note was an almost double increase from last month in arrests. The Department conducted a Saturation Patrol on April 21, 2006, with assistance from the Norway and Swansea police departments.

Fallaw asked for clarification from Council on how they wished the police department to move forward in handling violations with regard to abandoned houses and property. Jeffcoat stated he has talked with our Town lawyer about this, and he is researching the matter further. Jeffcoat also said with one house already scheduled to come down, that he felt this would motivate others to follow. Fallaw stated he will hold off on enforcement until further direction from Council. Fallaw reported Angie Eklund is doing a fine job with data entry and other administrative police duties and there is good coordination of her town and police time.

Old Business:

- Financial Statement - Mayor Jeffcoat presented the financial report for April 2006 (copy attached).
- Abandoned houses/litter control - There was discussion about recurring trash, even after the Town Clean-Up Week and whether legal action has ever been/could be taken. Fallaw said it is difficult to make arrests with litter because a person has to be observed littering. However, arrests have been made in the past. Fallaw said the Community of Character program is working with the schools to help instill values such as caring about our environment. He commended the Town on obtaining trash receptacles for downtown, as he has noticed a great improvement in trash containment around the businesses.
- Jeffcoat updated some appreciation/depreciation figures for our auditors.

New Business:

- Jeffcoat read and signed a proclamation (copy attached) on behalf of the Town of North, proclaiming the month of May 2006 as Mental Health Month. Jeffcoat commented that mental illness can affect anyone from any walk of life. It is important to reduce stigma and promote mental health in our communities, and called upon the officials and citizens to do so.
- Audit - Auditors visit last week pretty smooth. They are going to work on helping to streamline our accounting process.

- Group Health/Dental insurance - met with Tommy Peacock of Palmetto Insurance. The plan coverage he is offering is less expensive and offers better benefits. The plan also has a deferred tax option, which would provide a savings to the Town and employees.

Lane advised the Town to look carefully at the plan to ensure physicians used by the employees are on the approved physicians list for the insurance company.

Mrs. Lane addressed Council on behalf of the American Legion Post 78 in North to ask for support in making a donation to support Boy's State, which is held at the University of South Carolina. Mr. Drew made the motion that \$75 be donated to the American Legion to support Boy's State, Lane seconded, and the vote carried unanimously. Mr. Gleaton said he will personally donate \$75 to Boy's State. Mr. Buckheister thanked Council on behalf of the American Legion.

There were no further public comments.

#### Mayor's Report:

- Democratic and Republican primaries schedule for June 13, 2006. Will be held at Town Hall and Aiken Electric Co-Op.
- Community of Character Trait for May is "Caring."
- Templeton Sound is working on installation of recording system and it should be ready by June Council meeting.
- Roof on the electrical control building at the sewer plant is being replaced. Four estimates were obtained and the low bid was \$2,500 to replace and haul off old materials. Drew asked if the Town was still receiving payment for the lease of the land. This was confirmed.
- Water/Sewer software - looking at software needed to optimize and update our water/sewer billing process. Our auditors are going to check into this for us as well.
- Jeffcoat, Lane and Binyard attended training on the Freedom of Information Act last Thursday at the Lower Savannah Council of Governments. All reported this was one of the best trainings they had attended.
- Jeffcoat attended a Men's Prayer Breakfast in Orangeburg. Inez Tenenbaum, Superintendent of Education was the guest speaker. Anyone is invited to attend. The cost is \$10.

Lane made a motion to going into Executive Session to discuss a contractual matter regarding the magistrate's contract. Binyard seconded, and the vote carried unanimously.

Reverend Wright closed the group in prayer and Council went in to Executive Session at 7:35 p.m.

Council returned from Executive Session at 7:40 p.m. and Jeffcoat called the regular session back to order. Councilman Drew made the motion that the magistrate's contract be accepted as presented, seconded by Lane and the vote carried unanimously.

There being no further business, Council was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, 2006 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Beth Kincaid

**APPROVED: May 8, 2006 MINUTES**

Mayor Earl Jeffocat: \_\_\_\_\_

**Council Members:**

Paul Drew: \_\_\_\_\_

Rose Binyard: \_\_\_\_\_

Harriet Lane: \_\_\_\_\_

Aubrey Gleaton: \_\_\_\_\_